

UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S/9057
8 March 1969

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 8 MARCH 1969 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ISRAEL
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government I have the honour to draw to your urgent attention that a grave armed attack against Israel was launched today by the Egyptian military forces in the Suez Canal sector.

At 1732 hours local time the Egyptian armed forces opened an artillery barrage along the entire canal sector. Despite repeated attempts by the United Nations Military Observers to arrange a cease-fire, the Egyptian attack is, according to the latest reports, still continuing. Though Israeli forces ceased fire several times, Egyptian firing did not stop. At the time of writing (1530 hours New York time) fighting is concentrated in the Port Tewfik area with Egyptian sporadic fire in other sectors. Israeli forces are returning fire in self-defence only in the Port Tewfik area.

The artillery attack was preceded by an incursion this morning of four Egyptian Mig 21 into the Sinai air space. Israeli aircraft shot down one of the planes. Its pilot was wounded but succeeded to bail out and is in Israeli hands. No Israeli aircraft were lost.

It will be recalled that for several weeks Egyptian acts of aggression have increased considerably in the Suez Canal sector. Incessant sniping by Egyptian forces against Israeli positions has been reported by General Odd Bull in numerous reports. These Egyptian attacks have brought about expressions of concern by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and by General Bull. (S/7930/Add.115 of 11 February 1969 and S/7930/Add.127 of 28 February 1969). It will be noted that Israeli forces had refrained for several weeks from returning fire. In addition to the sniping, the Egyptian authorities have lately intensified terror warfare operations against Israel and in particular mining raids across the canal. These Egyptian acts of aggression have been subject of letters submitted by me to the President of the Security Council on 12 February 1969 (S/9004) and on 13 February 1969 (S/9009).

Today's attack, which constitutes a cease-fire breach of the utmost gravity, has resulted in one Israeli killed and ten wounded.

I reserve the right to submit further information as soon as it becomes available.

I have the honour to request that this letter be circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

Please accept, etc.

(Signed) Yosef TEKOAH
Permanent Representative of Israel
to the United Nations
